

STATINTL

A Matter of Intelligence

This is open season on the CIA; no hunting license is required, and the political jungle is alive with sharpshooters. It is a measure of the damage cloak and dagger irrationality can inflict on the cause of freedom that both Communists and Fascists are having a field day at our expense.

On Tuesday Paul Ghali reported in this newspaper from Paris that Communist propagandists and army officers are still telling the French that a CIA promise of U. S. support was behind the military revolt in Algeria; the logic employed is that the CIA (as demonstrated in Cuba) is so dominated by right-wing fanaticism that it concluded Algerian independence would give Moscow a foothold in North Africa and that the insurrectionists, by keeping Algeria French, would better serve the CIA purpose than Gen. de Gaulle.

This tale has been officially branded a lie by Allen Dulles and other government officials. They can offer no proof of their innocence but we are inclined to believe them. Conceivably the Fascist-minded generals simply felt their cause and the CIA's were one and assumed that, with such political empathy, they could count on ultimate co-operation.

Joseph Barry, in his report from Paris yesterday, discerned a grim moral in all of this murky talk. Blind, blunderbuss "anti communism" which fails to grasp real distinctions merely creates a chain reaction of doubt and distrust. To put it simply, lack of political intelligence is a deadly menace to military intelligence. CIA's past blunders will haunt it in every realm until the world is convinced that a big change in its structure and personnel has occurred.